I hope you all had a great summer! This will be my last contribution to the newsletter as the AAVI president. In this regard, I would like to once again thank you for giving me this rare opportunity to serve in this capacity and for your support. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the AAVI board for their commitment to AAVI and their support as I navigated this leadership journey. It has been both an honor and a privilege, and a rewarding experience that I will treasure. Dr. Alan Young will take over as the AAVI president effective January 1, 2019. At this time I’ll begin to serve in the board as a past-president. I am committed to support Dr. Young and the board, and to serve AAVI in this capacity.

In the coming weeks there will be an opportunity for you to elect your future leaders. I would encourage you to participate in this process - make your vote count! As you know, AAVI is run by people who volunteer their time and effort to serve. There is always a need, so consider presenting yourself as a candidate for one of the available positions. Please remember to renew your membership to be eligible to vote or be a candidate, if you haven’t already done so.

The time for the most anticipated event in the international veterinary immunology community, the IVIS (International Veterinary Immunology Symposium) is fast approaching. It will be held in the summer of 2019 in Seattle, WA, USA (more details available elsewhere in the newsletter). We anticipate that most of you will be able to attend since it has returned to North America after being held in several exotic places around the world. I would encourage you to consider attending and also presenting your work as this symposium happens once every three years. This is a great opportunity for all
of us to showcase our research and network with others for collaboration, training or career.

In December we will have our annual AAVI events during the CRWAD conference in Chicago. The 2018 AAVI symposium will be special as we have partnered with Society for Mucosal Immunology (SMI) to have a joint symposium. We have lined up several excellent speakers in the area of mucosal immunity in large animals and we anticipate that the presentations will be exceptional. Be sure not to miss this rare opportunity to hear and interact with these experts.

In Chicago, we will also have an AAVI board meeting, and the ever popular AAVI business luncheon for all members. More details about these two events will be provided elsewhere.

See you in Chicago.
Thank you,
George Mutwiri

Secretary’s Note
By Carol G. Chitko-McKown

As AAVI Secretary, one of my most important responsibilities is keeping a record of the current members and their contact information. The good news is that we are at 65 members – 48 “Regular” and 17 Student – with their annual dues paid for 2018. The bad news is that there are many names on the “past member” list that have not paid their dues. If you are on the latter list, please consider coming back to AAVI. If you are a current member with students, please consider having your students become members if they aren’t already. Membership fees HAVE NOT INCREASED for well over 20 years! AAVI uses these fees to support student awards, the annual Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist Award, for speakers at the annual AAI-AAVI Veterinary Immunology Symposium at the AAI meeting, and to defray costs at our annual Business Meeting Luncheon held in Chicago each year during CRWAD.

Getting back to contact information, the two most popular methods of paying AAVI dues are at the above-mentioned Business Meeting and via PayPal through the AAVI website. Unfortunately, neither of these currently has a manner through which you can get me your preferred email address for further notification or your professional/academic affiliation. If you have not been receiving information from AAVI, I may not have a functioning email address for you, or you may have graduated from a student position to a faculty position and haven’t updated your contact info. We are trying to set things on PayPal so that this important information can be added, but in the meanwhile – anyone with concerns please email me at either carol.chitkomckown@ars.usda.gov or AAVIorg@gmail.com and I will get your information updated.

Jumping back to the annual Business Meeting Luncheon, it will once again be held at The Grand Lux Café, 600 N Michigan Avenue at Ontario, Chicago starting at 11:30am on Monday, December 3, 2018. The cost will be $30 this year for a brunch buffet style luncheon and the chance to rub elbows with all of your AAVI colleagues. We will be selected the entrée and side items soon, so look for those choices in the email that will arrive in the not-too-
distant future in the AAVI elections email. Meanwhile, you can check out the choices at the bottom of this link under Brunch Buffet Menu
Feel free to contact me in advance if something catches your eye (or your belly).

If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach me at the emails listed above, or at (402) 762-4372.

Constitution and By-laws Update
By Radhey Kaushik

The language to the constitution has been reviewed by the AAVI Board, amendments (below and posted to the AAVI website) are to be voted upon by the general membership. Amendments include:

Motion 1a.
Add
ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP
Section 6. Membership drives will be conducted by the ad-hoc membership committee.

Motion 1b.
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 9.
5) As soon as possible after the meeting, submit a news release to JAVMA, AJVR and VII. This should include annual meeting highlights, new officers, symposium program, DVI information and student award winners. Pictures should be sent, especially to JAVMA.
Amend to
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 9.
5) As soon as possible after the meeting, submit a news release to AAI and AAVI website. This should include annual meeting highlights, new officers, symposium program, and DVI information and student award winners. Pictures should be sent.

Motion 1c.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 9.
6) Write letters of congratulations to the student award winners with copies to their mentors, department head and dean. In the letter, remind the student that they need to send you an extended abstract before they will be sent their check and certificate.
Amend to
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 9.
6) Write letters of congratulations to the student award winners with copies to their mentors, department head and dean.

Motion 1d.
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 9.
7) Generate items for the newsletter. There are two published (January and June) each year...
Amend to
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 9.
7) Generate items for the newsletter. There are two published in spring and fall (April and October) each year...

Motion 1e.
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 13.
9) The Secretary should act as a second signatory on the AAVI bank accounts
Amend to
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 13.
9) The Secretary should act as a second signatory on the AAVI bank accounts unless unable to at which time another AAVI board or executive committee member will be selected by the board.

Motion 1f.
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 14.
1) Collect funds; reconcile the google account with bank records and deposit checks.
Amend to
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 14.
1) Collect funds; reconcile the Paypal account with bank records and deposit checks.

Motion 1g.
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 14.
8) Extramural grant submission for AAVI associated meetings and follow-up e.g., authorized representative. CCR and ASAP.gov require quarterly/annual updates; handle transfer of funds, extension requests and reports to granting agencies.

Amend to
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 14.
8) Extramural grant submission either alone or in association with any board designated AAVI board member for AAVI associated meetings and follow-up e.g., authorized representative. CCR and ASAP.gov require quarterly/annual updates; handle transfer of funds, extension requests and reports to granting agencies.

Motion 1h.
Add to
ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 14.
12) 501(c)3 filing will be done annually

Motion 1i.
Add to
ARTICLE XI. COMMITTEES AND DESIGNEES
Section 6. An ad-hoc Membership Committee consisting of three (3) members of the Association, a chair from the Board and two (2) members, for the purpose of membership drives.

Motion 1j
BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY IMMUNOLOGISTS
1.
Student Awards Committee: The Student Awards Committee shall be responsible for the awarding of graduate student awards at the annual meeting. The committee chair shall collect extended abstracts from student awardees for the Newsletter and notify the Secretary when to release the certificates and cash awards...

Amend to
BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY IMMUNOLOGISTS
1.
Student Awards Committee: The Student Awards Committee shall be responsible for the awarding of graduate student awards at the annual meeting. The committee chair shall present the awards at the general CRWAD meeting...

2018 AAVI Student Presentation Competition

By Alan Young, Chair,
AAVI Awards Committee

The 2018 AAVI Student Presentation Competition will again be sponsored by AAI during the 99th annual meeting of CRWAD, December 1-4, in Chicago, Illinois. Oral and poster presentation categories will be judged. The first, second and third place presenters in both categories will be announced at the awards ceremony at the end of the meeting, please attend and be recognized. Awards for the best student oral and poster presentations will be $250, $150 and $100 for first, second and third place, respectively. All awardees will be offered AAVI membership.

Please note: entry into the AAVI Student Presentation Competition at CRWAD requires the student and/or mentor to be an AAVI member in good standing (as defined by dues paid in the last 3 years).

At least three judges are assigned to judge each contestant, and the three presentations in each category earning the highest overall scores capture the awards.

Oral Presentation Judging Criteria:
Impact of research - 10 points
• The student clearly presented the importance of research problem and/or disease conditions being addressed.

Abstract - 25 points
• The abstract was well written.
• The abstract clearly reflected the research presented.
• The abstract had a clearly defined conclusion.

Actual data - 40 points
• The experimental design, procedures and methods were clearly stated.
• The quality and quantity of the experiments was appropriate.
• Appropriate controls and statistical methods were utilized.
Conclusions were reflective of the data presented.

Presentation – 25 points
• The presentation was well organized and clearly delivered.
  There was adequate/ordered introduction, results and conclusions.
  All the figure and tables clearly explained.
• The slide presentation was of high quality
  Figures and tables easy for the audience to interpret.
  Slides were easily read at the back of the large presentation rooms.
• The amount of information presented was appropriate
  Too few or too many slides?
  Too much text?
• Student used good public speaking technique.
• Presentation was delivered in the allocated time.
  Generally 10 – 12 minutes.
  There was adequate time for questions.
• Responses to questions demonstrated the student’s ability to defend the work.

Poster Presentation Judging Criteria:
Impact of research - 10 points
• The student clearly presented the importance of research problem and/or disease conditions being addressed.

Abstract - 25 points
• The abstract was well written.
• The abstract clearly reflected the research presented.
• The abstract had a clearly defined conclusion.

Actual data - 40 points
• The experimental design, procedures and methods were clearly stated.
• The quality and quantity of the experiments was appropriate.
• Appropriate controls and statistical methods were utilized.
• Conclusions were reflective of the data presented.

Presentation – 25 points
• The presentation was well organized.
  There was adequate/ordered introduction, results and conclusions such that the reader could understand the poster in the absence of the presenter.
If asked, the student made a short presentation utilizing the poster.
• The poster presentation was of high quality
  In the absence of the student, the reader could interpret figures and tables.
  The poster was easily read from 3 feet away.
  Appealing presentation.
• The amount of information presented was appropriate
  Too few or too many panels?
  Too much text?
• Responses to questions demonstrated the student’s ability to defend the work.

Some helpful hints for contestants:
The judges really do keep track of time – it’s much better to be a little under and have time for questions than to be over and not have time for any. Be sure your lab-mates and advisors sit in while you practice – they will be able to catch errors on your slides/posters, and can suggest sections where you might need better explanations. Can your colleagues read your slides/poster? If they can’t, the judges sure can’t!
Too much information on a poster really can be a bad thing. We know you’ve done a great deal of work, but some of it may just have to wait for another occasion to show off. Sometimes, less is more! Dress for success – this is a professional meeting and is your time to shine. Finally, be courteous to everyone in your audience. You may not know who the judge is.

When you are presenting (oral/poster) remember to have your name badge all the time and introduce yourself as a graduate student/postdoc.

Good luck and see you soon at the AAVI symposium!

Once again this competition would not be possible without AAI sponsorship and provision of certificates, and the support of the AAVI membership, board, and especially our fine judges for 2018.
Co-chairs, AAVI-VP Aradhya Gourapura and AAVI and SMI member Heather Wilson, proposed that the SMI and AAVI jointly host a mini-symposium within the 99th Symposium for CRWAD, reaching out to the researchers in mucosal immunology who focus on veterinary species and who may be very interested in learning more about both organizations. We believe that a joint symposium may help foster collaborations between veterinary and human mucosal immunologists and to appeal to new generations who will enter the veterinary and human mucosal immunology fields.

The 2018 SMI-AAVI mini-symposium at CRWAD, Chicago IL, will be held on Monday December 3 at 2:00 - 5:45pm.

The following speakers have been invited:

DVI Laurel Gershwin, UC Davis, “Comparative immunobiology: from asthma to vaccines”

Michael Bailey, University of Bristol, “Mucosal immune development in pig intestines related to gut microbiota”

Michael H Kogut, USDA-ARS, “Gut health in food animals especially in chicken”

Artur Summerfield, University of Bern, “DC responses in lymph nodes and tonsils following virus infection.”

Uladzimir Karniychuk, University of Saskatchewan, “Uterine and fetal immune responses in Zika virus infected pregnant sow model”

The AAVI is pleased to honor Dr. Laurel Gershwin with the 2019 Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist Award. Dr. Gershwin is a Distinguished Professor of Immunology in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California Davis (UCD). Dr. Gershwin received her DVM from the University of California, Davis in 1971. After an internship at the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, MA and two years in private veterinary practice, she returned to UCD where in 1979 she obtained a PhD in Microbiology, with an emphasis in Immunology. Dr. Gershwin took and passed the board examination in virology, immunology, and bacteriology/mycology to become a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists in 1980. She has been a faculty member at the School of Veterinary Medicine, UCD since 1979 and has taught Immunology to students of Veterinary Medicine for 38 years.

Dr. Gershwin is internationally recognized for her extensive contributions to veterinary immunology through her work on the role of IgE in animal diseases. Some of her most important research contributions are related to her work on bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV)-specific IgE production, but
she has also studied the involvement of IgE in canine dirofilariasis, equine recurrent airway obstruction (heaves), and feline asthma. Dr. Gershwin has further contributed to the field of immunology through her work using animal models to clarify the pathogenesis of human allergic airway disease and human RSV infection. Using a mouse model, she has advanced our understanding of the mechanisms by which tobacco smoke exposure enhances the development of allergic airway disease. She also directed the development of a rhesus monkey model of asthma, which she and collaborators have used to define the pathologic changes that accompany respiratory dysfunction in allergic airway disease. Dr. Gershwin is currently engaged in research with collaborators to use her BRSV model to assess the efficacy of combined anti-viral and anti-inflammatory therapy on disease severity in RSV infection, shaping the development of new approaches to limit disease in children infected with RSV. Dr. Gershwin’s dedication to research in immunology has led to her publication of over 140 peer-reviewed manuscripts, over 180 abstracts, and 15 book chapters; she has also authored two textbooks. Dr. Gershwin has received over $5.4 million in extramural funding as the principle investigator, and she has been a co-investigator on grants totaling over an additional $13.5 million.

Dr. Gershwin’s commitment to service is particularly noteworthy. She has served on numerous USDA and NIH grant review panels, and has been a reviewer for at least 13 biomedical journals. She was the chair of the organizing committee of the 4th International Veterinary Immunology Symposium in 1995, and she has served as the U.S. representative on the Veterinary Immunology Committee of the International Union of Immunological Societies. Dr. Gershwin has served as a Board member and President of the AAVI. She has also served 3 separate terms on the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists Board of Governors. Dr. Gershwin is a past Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at UC Davis, and she has been the Chief of the Clinical Immunology and Virology Service at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at UC Davis over 20 years.

Given her many contributions in research, teaching and service, Dr. Gershwin is highly deserving of the 2019 Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist award. It is our great pleasure to host Dr. Gershwin on December 3rd in Chicago at the 2019 AAVI Symposium, held in conjunction with the 99th Annual CRWAD meeting!

Nominations Committee: 2019 Ballot

Jodi McGill, Nominations Committee Chair

Ballots will be emailed out October 17th, 2018. Voting for the AAVI 2018 elections closes on October 31st for members in good standing, with announcements to be made November 1st. The nominations are as follows:

Vice President -
Dr. Randy Sacco
Dr. Janice Telfer

Member at Large -
Dr. Laura Miller
Dr. Heather Wilson

Treasurer -
Dr. Yongming Sang
Dr. Corwin Nelson
Dr. John Driver

Nominations committee -
Dr. Tobias Kaeser
Dr. Radhey Kaushik
Dr. Paola Boggiatto

Biographies are attached at the end of this newsletter.
AAI member and prominent veterinary immunologist Don “Mark” Estes, Ph.D. (AAI '79), a professor at the University of Georgia (Athens) died earlier this year; an original thinker whose spirit and heart were as brilliant as his mind. Mark died July 10, at age 59, after battling the indignities of ALS for seven years.

Mark was instrumental in developing methods to culture ruminant macrophages and in phenotyping and functionally assessing these cells, and his work illuminated important differences among the cells of rodents, humans, and ruminants.

Mark had a somewhat unconventional start into biomedical science, after working as an analytical chemist for Mobile Oil, but had his true calling when obtaining a Ph.D. in genetics in 1988 from Texas A&M University. After positions at University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, University of Missouri, and University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Galveston, where he served as associate director of research programs for the Sealy Center for Vaccine Development, in 2010 Mark was appointed as the Fred L. Davison Chair in Biomedical Sciences at the College of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Georgia, Department of Infectious Diseases, in Athens.

Mark was an extraordinary scientist and entrepreneur. His work, particularly in the areas of vaccine and therapeutic drug discovery, enhanced the research reputation of every University he worked at, and provided a translational platform for the development of new products and technologies.

Many colleagues will remember Mark as a “towering” (he stood 6’4”), conscientious scientist who had a huge impact on the field of veterinary immunology. He published fundamental work on the generation, characterization, and functional description of lymphocytes in animals of veterinary importance, as well as developed new vaccine strategies for emerging, re-emerging and zoonotic diseases. His long career specialized in bioterrorism pathogens, HIV, tuberculosis, cancer and pathology. Mark was enthusiastic, curious, persevering, and persistent—and ever-so critical towards his own work. Mark was celebrated in the science world for novel ideas and insightful observations, received numerous distinguished awards throughout his career, including the prestigious Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist award from the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists and the Pfizer Award for Research Excellence.

Mark’s research focused on B lymphocytes of different species, which paved the way for further investigations into vaccine development - application and antigen discovery. This was especially important in the area of virology, where researchers developed the ability to assess the impact of a macrophage infection under defined conditions. The productivity of Mark’s group in this area is reflected in more than 100 publications and funding obtained from the NIH, USDA, and DOD, as well as private industry. This established his small research group as a “five-star” group when evaluated by international standards. Importantly, his
laboratory spawned many scientists now working in senior positions within academia and industry

Mark was a proud Texas Aggie, and was gifted with a real sense of humor, which was accompanied by a distaste for the hierarchical structures intrinsic to academia. This humor helped him to cope for many years the same way he had approached life – with a big smile.

After working as a Visiting Scientist at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi, Kenya, and a Visiting Professor at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, he held a soulful affection for Africa, its authentic people, natural beauty and wines. He was an independent man of adventure and drive who loved few things as much as the thrill of African safari, and helping people develop their careers.

Indeed, even Mark was not necessarily extremely keen on teaching; however he was very interested in developing new ways of teaching, especially teaching post-graduates, which can also be seen in the number of PhD and MS degree students he supervised throughout his career (23 as major supervisor).

Within the Veterinary Immunology world, Mark always advocated collaboration and the exchange of research material among different institutions and the pursuit of a coordinated approach to veterinary immunology research within the USA and worldwide.

We are saddened by the long illness and untimely passing of Mark, but he will stay alive in our memory. Mark loved life and the company of others. He influenced the paths of so many and enriched our shared past, either through scientific discussions, generation of new ideas, or simply by being an amazing mentor and good friend. We will always be grateful for this.

If you want to honor Mark’s legacy, please consider making a donation to ALS Therapy Development Institute, https://www.als.net/

Obituaries:
Michael P. Murtaugh

Dr. Michael ‘Mike’ P. Murtaugh passed away on September 18, 2018 following a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Mike was a devoted faculty member of the UMN School of Vet. Med. for 33 years, passionate about scientific research and discovery. Dr. Murtaugh, who held a doctorate in entomology from Ohio State University, based his research program at the University of Minnesota on the molecular mechanisms of disease resistance in pigs. His contributions to science has made many significant advances in fundamental porcine immunobiology related to immune protection and immunomodulation; porcine antiviral immunity, including lymphocyte memory and mechanisms of protection; and molecular virology, evolution and discovery sciences to elucidate viral origins and evolution as a means to understand genetic diversity and immunological challenges. Murtaugh significantly advanced the field of knowledge of PRRS, PCV2 and PED viruses’ evolution, pathogenesis and immunity, and his work will continue to impact the U.S. and global swine industries. He was recognized as the 2018 Allen D. Leman Swine Conference recipient of the Pijoan Lecture for his 30-year research into the PRRS virus and how his work on such a devastating disease has become a model for advancing progress in the industry this month. Dr. Murtaugh received the AAVI Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist award in 2012.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Connie; eight brothers and sisters; children Jeremy Murtaugh and Lisa McCartney; and four grandchildren.
Upcoming Meeting Announcements

IMMUNOLOGY 2019
May 9-13, 2019
San Diego, CA

AAI Veterinary Immunology Committee Session at IMMUNOLOGY 2019
“Enhancing animal models of human disease”

The 99th Annual Conference for Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD)
December 1-4, 2018
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile.

AAVI sponsored graduate oral and poster presentation competition at CRWAD.
**either the student or the mentor need to be AAVI members in good standing at the time the abstract is submitted.

Late-breaking abstract submission deadline is October 15, 2018
AAVI and SMI – “Mucosal Immunology in Animals”: Dec 3 (2 pm to 6 pm).

17th International Congress of Immunology (ICI 2019)
October 18-23, 2019
Beijing, China

International Veterinary Immunology Symposium
August 13-16, 2019
Renaissance Seattle, Seattle, USA

Key dates:
October 15, 2018 - Abstract submission opens
November 1, 2018 - Registration & Hotel Reservations open
February 8, 2019 – Abstract Submission Deadline
April, 2019 – Author notification
May 15, 2019 – Registration Deadline
July 15, 2019 – Late Registration closes

Supported by:
American Association of Veterinary Immunologists
International Union of Immunological Societies
Veterinary Immunology Committee

IVIS 2019 Organizing Committee
Chair: Crystal Loving
Co-Chair: Gary Entrican
Scientific Advisory Committee Chair: Philip Griebel
AAVI Officers and Board - 2018

President: George Mutwiri, U. of Saskatchewan, Canada, george.mutwiri@usask.ca
President Elect: Alan Young, South Dakota State University, alan.young@sdsstate.edu
Vice President: Aradhya Gourapura, The Ohio State University, gourapura.1@osu.edu
Past President: Radhey Kaushik, South Dakota State University, radhey.kaushik@sdsstate.edu
Secretary: Carol Chitko-McKown, USDA-ARS, carol.chitkomckown@ars.usda.gov
Treasurer: Glenn Zhang, Oklahoma State University, glenn.zhang@okstate.edu

Members-at-Large:
Amelia Woolums (2018), Mississippi State University, amelia.woolums@msstate.edu
Chuck Czuprynski (2019), University of Wisconsin, czuprync@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu
Crystal Loving (2020), USDA-ARS-MARC, crystal.loving@ars.usda.gov
Diego Diel (2021), South Dakota State University, diego.diel@sdsstate.edu

Nomination Committee (Elected by membership)
Jodi McGill (Chair, 2017) Kansas State University, jlmcgill@vet.k-state.edu
Mayara Maggioli (2018)
Corwin Nelson (2018)
Isis Kanevsky (2019)
Matthew Sylte (2019)
Robert Schaut (2020)

Membership Committee
Aradhya Gourapura, The Ohio State University, gourapura.1@osu.edu
Alan Young, South Dakota State University, alan.young@sdsstate.edu
Carol Chitko-McKown, USDA-ARS, carol.chitkomckown@ars.usda.gov
Sheela Ramamoorthy, North Dakota State University, sheela.ramamoorthy@ndsu.edu
George Mutwiri, U. of Saskatchewan, Canada, george.mutwiri@usask.ca
Kristen Byrne, USDA-ARS, kristen.byrne@ars.usda.gov

Fundraising Committee
Alan Young, South Dakota State University, alan.young@sdsstate.edu

Constitution/By-Laws Committee
Radhey Kaushik, South Dakota State University, radhey.kaushik@sdsstate.edu
Amelia Woolums, Mississippi State University, amelia.woolums@msstate.edu

Student Awards Committee
Sheela Ramamoorthy (2017), North Dakota State University, sheela.ramamoorthy@ndsu.edu

Finance Committee
Amelia Woolums, Chair, Mississippi State University, amelia.woolums@msstate.edu

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AAVI Nominees for 2019

Vice president (2)

**Randy Sacco, PhD**
National Animal Disease Center, ARS, USDA

Since 1997, Dr. Randy Sacco has been a research immunologist at the National Animal Disease Center/USDA/ARS, Ames, IA. He is currently in the Ruminant Diseases and Immunology Research Unit and is a Lead Scientist assigned to the bovine respiratory diseases project. His research focus is primarily on bovine immune responses to respiratory pathogens. In addition, however, he is leading an effort to develop an immune reagent tool kit for cetaceans, primarily in bottlenose dolphins. He is Professor/Affiliate at Iowa State University in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine and is Chair of the Iowa State University Interdepartmental Immunobiology Program and a member of the Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Program.

Dr. Sacco belongs to the following organizations and has served in various capacities within these organizations: American Association of Immunologists; Veterinary Immunology Subcommittee 2005-2008; American Society for Microbiology, Committee on Agriculture and Food Microbiology, Public and Scientific Affairs Board, 2006-2008; American Association of Veterinary Immunologists, Nominating Committee, 2008-2011; Autumn Immunology Conference, Organizing Committee, 2002-2011; Executive Council, 2006-2011; Workshop Coordinator, 2008; Secretary, 2009, Chair 2010, Councilor, 2011. He has served as a Section Editor for the *Journal of Immunology*, 2011-2015 and has served as a reviewer since 2002. Dr. Sacco was a member of editorial board for *Clinical and Vaccine Immunology* from 2009-2017. In addition, he has served as an ad hoc reviewer for numerous other journals, including Clinical and Exp Immunology, Journal of Leukocyte Biology, Journal of Virology, Immunology, PNAS, Viral Immunology, and Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology. Dr. Sacco has published >100 peer reviewed articles, reviews, and book chapters. He currently has extramural grant support from Office of Naval Research/DOD and NIH.

**Janice Telfer, PhD**
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Janice Telfer received her Bachelor’s of Science degree in 1988 at Wake Forest University, where she was a Reynolds Scholar. She earned a Ph.D. in Immunology in 1995 at Harvard Medical School in the laboratory of Professor Christopher Rudd, studying signaling via the TCR co-receptors CD4 and CD8. She did her post-doctoral training in the laboratory of Professor Ellen Rothenberg at the California Institute of Technology, studying gene regulation by Runx transcription factors in thymocytes and hematopoietic stem cells. She became an Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University in 2001 and moved to University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2002, as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Veterinary and Animal Science. She was recently named a Professor in the Department of Veterinary and Animal Science at UMass Amherst, and serves as the Undergraduate Program Director for the department and the Director of Pre-Vet Advising for the university. She has received an NSF CAREER award, an Armstrong Fund for Science award, and is currently funded by NIFA-USDA to elucidate the role of the Scavenger Receptor Cysteine Rich (SRCR) domain containing proteins in the gamma delta T cell response to important pathogens of domesticated animals, such as *Leptospira, Anaplasma* and *Mycobacteria*. 
Member-at-large (2)

Heather Wilson, PhD  
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre

Dr. Heather L. Wilson is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan with High Honour’s in Biochemistry. She has worked at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac), University of Saskatchewan, for the past 11 years, most recently as a Research Scientist III and Program Manager of the Vaccine Formulation & Delivery team. She is an adjunct professor in the Vaccinology & Immunotherapeutics Program in the School of Public Health as well as an adjunct professor in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology in at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. She has published over 52 peer-reviewed papers, 2 book chapters and has made 28 conference presentations, many as an invited speaker. Dr. Wilson has mentored more than 20 undergraduate students, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who currently hold positions in academia and the health care industry, worldwide. Her primary research interests include studying how vaccines formulated with select adjuvants and/or targeting mucosal sites can promote mucosal immunity. Her expertise in biochemistry, immunology and vaccinology combined with her growing knowledge of the hog industry has allowed her lab to combine new vaccine approaches with current husbandry practices to encourage acceptance by the pig industry. Notably, her lab has made significant progress in developing an intrauterine immunization model which takes advantage of the normal artificial insemination practises of sows to promote immunity without impacting fertility. Her research also uses pig as a large animal model for studying human immunology and vaccine research.

Laura Miller, PhD  
National Animal Disease Center, ARS, USDA

Bio – I obtained a BSc (Hons) in Biological Sciences: Medical Microbiology at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1997. My PhD studies on Foot-and-Mouth Disease were conducted at the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright and awarded by the University of Reading, England in 2001. I led a surveillance and serology diagnostic team during the UK Foot-and-Mouth Disease Epidemic of 2001. I have a broad background in microbiology, viral immunology and functional genomics. As a post-doctorate and then Microbiologist at the US Meat Animal Research Center, I carried out gene expression profiling of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome virus infected cells leading to new information on the type I interferon and apoptotic response to infection. At the NADC, as a Research Microbiologist I lead investigations in immune responses with a particular focus on the host transcriptome response to viral infection. I have been an active member of AAVI since 2007, judging the AAVI student presentation competition at the CRWAD meeting from 2007 to the present and became AAVI Chair of Student Awards in 2011. I have chaired the Immunology Section at the Conference for Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) 2011-2014 and was co-organizer for the 2012,2013 and 2014 AAVI minisymposiums. I am guest co-editor of a Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology Special Issue arising from the mini-symposium “Agricultural Species as Immunological Models in Veterinary and Biomedical Research”. I served as AAVI Vice-President (2014), President Elect (2015), President (2016), and Past President (2017). As President, I co-chaired the 2016 AAVI-VIC/AAVI joint symposium “Vaccination: the balance between immunity and pathogenesis”, and met with IUIS at IVIS2016 to help with steering IVIS2019. I currently serve as newsletter editor for AAVI.
Statement of intent – I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the AAVI Member-at-Large, and look forward to continuing to serve the organization. Since 2007 I have regularly attended AAVI business meetings held in Chicago along with CRWAD meetings. These meetings provided me the opportunity to personally meet and interact with my Veterinary Immunology colleagues and foster scientific collaborations. I also came to know the missions and mandates of AAVI during these meetings. One of the most important missions of AAVI is to train, inspire and support the young students and scientists in the field of Veterinary Immunology. As Chair of the AAVI Student Awards Committee, I have had the satisfaction of interacting with today’s graduate students and young scientists, and been a proponent of mentor-student presentations in the mini-symposium. I believe in order for AAVI to continue to be an innovative and integral coordinator of veterinary immunology research, our goals as a society should include collaborative research tools, strengthening liaisons with national and international immunological and “One Health” societies, and increasing funding lines for Veterinary Immunology Research. As Member-at-Large I would support all current mandates of AAVI and would continue previous AAVI efforts to better integrate the veterinary and biomedical immunology communities.

Treasurer (3)

Yongming Sang, D.Sc. PhD
Tennessee State University

Yongming Sang received his M.S. and Doctoral degree in Plant Physiology/Biochemistry from Nanjing Agricultural University in 1993 and 1996, respectively. He received his Ph.D. in Immunophysiology from Kansas State University in 2008. He is currently an Associate professor in Animal Genetics/Immunology at Tennessee State University. Dr. Sang’s major research area is directed at elucidating, molecularly and functionally, animal immune and metabolic genes, in particular those that have antimicrobial activities and therapeutic potential against several animal pathogens. His current projects are focusing on antiviral regulation and vaccine design against porcine arterivirus, and influenza virus supported by USDA grants, as well as molecular and functional determination of newly identified amphibian interferon complex. He is a regular member of five scientific associations. He serves as a panelist of federal funding agents including USDA and NIH, and serves in the reviewing/editorial boards of more than 15 scientific journals in animal genomics and immunology. Meanwhile, he teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses in animal genetics and animal health, and has served as the major professor for multiple graduate students.

Yongming is a regular member of both AAVI and AAI for nearly ten years.

Corwin Nelson, PhD
University of Florida

Dr. Nelson is an assistant professor of physiology in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Florida. He received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Immunobiology from Iowa State University and completed a postdoc in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His current research concentrates on the influence and regulation of vitamin D signaling in the immune system with an emphasis on mastitis in dairy cattle. Overall, Dr. Nelson has an interest in veterinary immunology and the value of the field in advancing both animal and human health.
**John Driver, PhD**  
**University of Florida**

John P. Driver is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Florida. He received his BS and MS in Animal Sciences from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and his PhD in Animal Nutrition from the University of Georgia. He joined The Jackson Laboratory as a postdoctoral fellow and then as a research scientist where he studied the genetic causes of autoimmune diabetes. He joined the faculty at the University of Florida in 2012, where, in addition to his diabetes research, he has established a swine immunology program focused on harnessing natural killer T cell therapy to mitigate infectious diseases. He is currently funded by the NIH (R01 HD092286, R21 AI130656) and USDA (2016-09448) and past funding is gratefully acknowledged from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the American Diabetes Association. He serves as the director of the University of Florida’s Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology graduate program and is a standing member on the USDA Animal health and Disease panel A as well as the American Diabetes Association study section. He is a recipient of the 2016 University of Florida College of Agriculture’s Graduate Teacher/Mentor Award.

**Nomination committee (3)**

**Tobias Kaeser, PhD**  
**North Carolina State University**

**Background:**

I studied biology at the Eberhard Karls University Tübingen (Germany) with a focus on molecular biology, virology and microbiology. In 2004, I started my diploma (=master) thesis at one of the best swine immunology laboratories, the Institute of Immunology of Prof. Armin Saalmüller at the Vetmeduni Vienna, Austria. My research emphasis was the porcine T-cell immune system. We were the first to discover porcine regulatory T cells (Tregs), we defined their mechanisms and targets of suppression during my PhD thesis, and studied their role in PRRSV infection during my PostDoc. Due to my strong interest in flow cytometry, I also started the production of fluorescently-conjugated antibodies enabling multi-color flow cytometry for swine.

In 2013 I joined the well-recognized Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) in Saskatoon, Canada, to use my expertise for vaccine development. Under the supervision of Drs. François Meurens and Volker Gerdts, we established the pig as a model to study genital chlamydia infections. We developed cell culture systems to study innate and antigen-specific adaptive immune responses in pigs with focus on immunological memory. In 2016, I started as an assistant professor in swine immunology at NC State.

**Research emphasis:**

The overall goal of my lab is to study memory immune responses in pigs to facilitate the development of vaccines and intervention strategies for porcine and human diseases. My lab currently consists of one lab manager and two PhD students, representing the three research foci of my lab: i) We study the porcine adaptive immune response to heterologous PRRSV strains to evaluate the capacity of vaccines to provide cross-protection. ii) and iii), we use the pig as a model to study human food allergy and *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections.
We use *in vivo* trials in combination with *in vitro* re-stimulation assays to study pathogen load, the production of neutralizing antibodies, and the induction and function of memory immune cells using qPCR, fluorescent microscopy, and up to 9-color flow cytometry. We recently completed our PRRSV and chlamydia trials, prepare publications and present the data at the NA PRRS symposium and CRWAD 2018.

**Publications:**
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1TgO6TAPbUgQ3/bibliography/51161920/public/?sort=date&direction=descending

**Service experience:**

In addition to AAVI, I am a member of CRWAD, the Edward Jenner Vaccine Society, the German Society of Immunology (DGfI), the Austrian Society for Cytometry (ÖGfZ), and the Chlamydia Basic Research Society.

In addition, am a member of the “Young Investigator Program class of 2015” from the journal “Vaccine” and acted as a guest editor for their special issue on the World Vaccine Congress 2016.

**Radhey Kaushik, MVSc., PhD**
South Dakota State University

I completed my undergraduate and master degrees in Veterinary Sciences from Haryana Agricultural University, India in 1985 and 1988 respectively. I practiced as a field veterinarian in India for six years. In 1994 I was awarded Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship for pursuing a Ph.D. program in ‘Veterinary Microbiology and Immunology’ at Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. I completed Ph.D. program in 1998 and my Ph.D. research was focused on studying the role of macrophages in African bovine trypanosomiasis. Subsequently I worked as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at ‘Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization’ (VIDO), Canada under Dr. Philip Griebel and during this tenure my research was mainly focused in the area of mucosal immunity of food animals. In 2003, I joined as an Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at South Dakota State University (SDSU). In 2013 I was promoted to the rank of full Professor (tenured). One of my assignments at SDSU includes teaching Microbiology and Immunology classes to both undergraduate and graduate students. During last 15 years my research has been mainly focused on studying host-pathogens interactions at mucosal surfaces with special emphasis on innate immunity. I have been working as a Graduate Coordinator and Chair of Dept. Graduate Committee since 2010 and as an Assistant Dept. Head since 2011. I have received many awards and honors at SDSU such as ‘Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award”, Gamma Sigma Delta teaching award, Biology and Microbiology Dept. Research and Teaching awards. I have served for three years on USDA ‘NIFA Animal Health Grant Panel’.

I have regularly attended CRWAD yearly meetings since 2003. I presided over the CRWAD ‘Immunology section’ many times in last years. I chaired ‘Gastroenteric Disease’ section at CRWAD meetings in 2011-13. I have been the active member of American Association of Veterinary Immunologists (AAVI) since 2007 and every year regularly attended AAVI business meetings and lunches. I served on the AAVI board as board member in 2014. In 2015, I was elected as Vice President of AAVI and subsequently I served as President Elect in 2016 and as AVVI President in 2017. Currently I am serving as a Past-President of AAVI. My last five years
tenure on the AAVI executive board and attending regularly AAVI and CRWAD meetings have provided me the opportunity to personally meet and interact with veterinary microbiology and immunology colleagues and foster the scientific collaborations. I understand the missions and mandates of AAVI through serving on AAVI board and meeting many colleagues in these meetings. I have been approached by AAVI nomination committee to serve now on the AAVI nomination committee. I feel that my long association with AAVI and my service on the AAVI board has fully prepared me to serve in this role. I am ready to provide my services and contribution to various missions and mandates of AAVI and contribute in nominating right and deserving people for the AAVI board and Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist (DVI) award. I present myself as a candidate for the ‘membership’ on the AAVI nomination committee.

**Paola Boggiatto, DVM, PhD**
**National Animal Disease Center, ARS, USDA**

Paola M. Boggiatto received her B.A. in Biology from Augustana College, Rock Island, IL, in 2004. She then Iowa State University, where in 2010 she received her PhD in Immunobiology, under Drs. Doug Jones and Christine Petersen in the Department of Veterinary Pathology. For her PhD work, she studied the host immune response to the intracellular protozoan parasite *Leishmania amazonensis* in the murine model of cutaneous leishmaniasis and to *L. infantum* in the canine model of visceral leishmaniasis.

Following completion of her PhD work, she joined Dr. Steven Varga at the University of Iowa in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology from 2010 to 2012, where she completed her post-doctoral fellowship. In the Varga laboratory, she studied regulatory Foxp3-expressing CD4 T cells (T\(_{reg}\)) in the mouse model following chronic lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) infection. In 2012, she returned to Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine and earned her DVM in 2016. While enrolled in veterinary school, she worked with Dr. Michael Wannemuehler in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine using polyanhydride-based nanovaccine platforms against a variety of bacterial, viral, and protozoal diseases in the mouse model.

In 2016, she joined Dr. Steven Olsen in the Infectious Bacterial Diseases research unit at the National Animal Disease Centers in Ames, Iowa, to study brucellosis. Her research focuses on the development of novel vaccination and diagnostic strategies for brucellosis in cattle, bison (*Bison bison*) and elk (*Cervus elaphus*). Her projects include the testing of a novel single-dose, polyanhydride based, extended antigen release vaccine platform and the characterization of immune correlates of protection against *B. abortus*. 